

# ABSTRACT

5 The invention relates generally to compositions of and  
methods for obtaining opioid receptor polypeptides. The  
invention relates as well to polynucleotides encoding opioid  
receptor polypeptides, the recombinant vectors carrying those  
sequences, the recombinant host cells including either the  
sequences or vectors, and recombinant opioid receptor  
polypeptides. By way of example, the invention discloses the  
10 cloning and functional expression of at least three different  
opioid receptor polypeptides. The invention includes as well,  
methods for using the isolated, recombinant receptor polypeptides  
in assays designed to select and improve substances capable of  
interacting with opioid receptor polypeptides for use in  
15 diagnostic, drug design and therapeutic applications.